

Senator Melissa Wiklund

April 9, 2025

Health & Human Services Committee

Minnesota Senate Building, 1100

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

Thank you so much for your leadership and commitment to Minnesota families. I'm writing on behalf of Minnesota's home birth midwives and the families we serve to express our strong support for the inclusion of **MA Coverage for Birth Services Provided at Home (HF96 / SF1113)** in the Senate Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill (SF 2669). This provision is an important step toward ensuring that all families—regardless of income, insurance, or zip code—can access the safe, personalized care they deserve during pregnancy and childbirth.

Families throughout our state are increasingly seeking more options regarding how and where they give birth. For many, home birth is a culturally significant or deeply personal choice, and for others—especially in rural or underserved areas—it may be the only option available due to the closure of local hospitals and birth centers. By funding reimbursement for home birth supplies at 70% of the hospital facility fee, SF 1113 will eliminate a significant financial barrier and make home birth more accessible, particularly for low-income families.

This change will positively impact the lives of Minnesotans by enabling more families to choose trusted midwives who can support them through pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care. It also reduces the need for families to travel long distances for maternity care. This provision is not only compassionate but also practical. Research consistently shows that home birth for low-risk pregnancies is associated with excellent outcomes and significantly lower costs. Supporting families in making informed, low-intervention birth choices when appropriate will help alleviate pressure on hospital systems and ensure that critical care remains available for those who need it most.

Thank you again for listening to Minnesota families and honoring their voices in this legislation. Your support reaffirms the belief that all families deserve choices, safety, and dignity in how they welcome their children into the world. We strongly urge you to support this provision in the final Health and Human Services bill, ensuring that all Minnesotan families—regardless of income or where they live—can access safe, supported home birth options.

With sincere appreciation,

Minnesota Council of Certified Professional Midwives